



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

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Commissioner Selects Experienced Administrator to Manage Operation of State Facilities

Richmond—Commissioner James S. Reinhard, M.D., announced today that he has hired Gerald E. Deans as Assistant Commissioner for Facility Management, a key position which supervises the 15 state mental health and mental retardation facilities. “Jerry Deans is well-known throughout the Commonwealth as a top-notch manager and administrator. As Director of the Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute for the past 10 years, he has first-hand knowledge of facility operations, as well as the clinical expertise required to assure high quality care for patients and residents,” said Dr. Reinhard.

Val Marsh, Executive Director of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Virginia, said, “Jerry Deans is an excellent choice! He is talented, has strong leadership skills, and has all the right values. He truly believes in recovery, and he puts the needs of the consumer first.”

Mr. Deans will supervise the facility directors, as well as the Offices of Facility Operations/Quality Improvement, Forensic Services, and Facility Investigations Management. Deans was Director of Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute (SWVMHI) in Marion from 1992 until April, 2002, when he transferred to the Central Office in Richmond to take over as Acting Assistant Commissioner for Facility Management. While director at SWVMHI, Deans was instrumental in the development of the Southwest Virginia Behavioral Health Board and served as its chairman from 2000-2002. This innovative regional board comprised of representatives from community services boards, consumers, family members, and facility managers collaborates to plan and resolve problems regarding the delivery of services to clients of community programs and the state mental health and mental retardation facilities across jurisdictions in Southwestern Virginia. The board has received recognition for its accomplishments from state family and consumer advocacy groups. In addition, SWVMHI has been recognized throughout the country as a leader in telepsychiatry; the use of video conferencing to connect patients in remote rural areas with treatment professionals at the mental health facility. This program has been successful in monitoring patients after discharge from the facility, and ensuring successful re-entry to community life.

From 1985-1992, Mr. Deans was Director of the Marion Correctional Treatment Center of the Virginia Department of Corrections. This facility is an acute care psychiatric hospital for inmates in the adult corrections system and achieved JCAHO accreditation under Deans' leadership. Deans initiated innovative programs for managing aggressive behavior by patients, as well as a Crisis Response Team to assist employees who were assaulted in the line of duty. He received the Department of Corrections' "Excellence for Outstanding Facility Management" in 1987, 1988 and 1989. Prior to his work at the Marion Correctional Treatment Center, Deans was Assistant Warden, at St. Brides Correctional Center in Chesapeake, and Buckingham Correctional Center in Dillwyn. In both jobs he

supervised the psychology, counseling, and recreation programs. He was the Director of the Therapeutic Community for the Treatment of Substance Abusers and Sex Offenders at James River and Powhatan Correctional Centers from 1974 until 1981.

Deans holds a Master of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University with major fields of study in Social Work Administration, Social Work Education and Adult and Juvenile Justice. He is married with four living children and one deceased. Deans and his family are active in community and church activities in Marion. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of Smyth County Mental Health Association, past president and member of the Board of Directors of Marion United Way, past president and member of the Board of Directors of the Smyth County Chamber of Commerce, a past member of the Marion Rotary Club, and an active member and leader in First United Methodist Church of Marion.

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